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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

TL 2120

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/44/95**

UA 216/95 **Fear of torture** **11 September 1995**

EAST TIMOR **More than 50 detained after riots**

Between 50 and 100 people are reported to have been arrested in the East Timorese capital of Dili following three days of intense rioting. Details of the precise number and identities of those still detained are unclear, but Amnesty International is concerned that they may be at risk of torture.

The rioting began on 8 September and was apparently triggered by reports that an Indonesian prison official had, on 6 September, insulted the Catholic church. Rioting quickly spread across the town leading to attacks on police and Indonesian migrants. Cars, shops, and a market were set alight.

The arrests began on 8 September and there are unconfirmed reports that between 50 and 100 people have so far been detained, although many of these may have been released shortly after their arrest. By the night of 8 September, the Armed Forces announced that 41 youths were being questioned, but on 11 September, East Timor Police Chief Colonel Andreas Sugianto was quoted by Reuters as saying that 30 youths had been detained since early 8 September. Sugianto also stated that all but 14 had been freed.

The arrests appear to be being carried out by both police and military officers. To Amnesty International's knowledge the authorities have so far not provided names of those detained or precise details of the charges.

Amnesty International recognises the right of the Indonesian authorities to bring to justice those responsible for acts of violence. However, based on previous patterns of human rights violations in East Timor, Amnesty International is concerned that those detained may be tortured during interrogation. In addition, there are fears that the detainees will not be provided with proper access to independent lawyers or to their families.

Unconfirmed reports allege that some have already been tortured, including with electric shocks, and the use of razor blades and salt on the skin. The authorities have denied that any of those arrested are at risk of torture. While Amnesty International understands that the International Committee of the Red Cross has been given access to the prisoners, there is concern that such access has not always provided sufficient protection against torture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The latest events in Dili add to the high level of riots and civil unrest against Indonesia's occupation of East Timor which have occurred since November 1994. The authorities have responded to the demonstrations and riots with arbitrary detention (including detention of peaceful protesters), beatings, torture and suspected extrajudicial executions. Over 100 East Timorese were arrested following the November 1994 demonstrations and 27 people are believed to have been tried this year for their alleged role in these demonstrations. More recently in August 1995, at least 10 people were believed to have been arrested following disturbances in the East Timorese towns of Baucau and Ermera. Concern for those arrested is heightened by the consistent pattern of beatings and torture in detention. Detainees continue to be refused access to independent lawyers, while others have been pressured into withdrawing power of attorney for independent lawyers.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:
- urging the Indonesian authorities to provide details of the whereabouts of all those detained in Dili since 8 September, as well as any charges that are to be brought against them;
- calling for all possible measures to be taken to ensure the safety of the detainees;
- calling on the authorities to allow continued access for those in detention to the International Committee of the Red Cross, lawyers of their own choice and their families.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR EAST TIMOR
Lt. Col. Andreas Sugianto
Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili, East Timor (Indonesia)
Telegrams: Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-Colonel

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA
(covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East Timor)
Brig. Gen. H A Rivai
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutations: Dear Brigadier-General

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ali Alatas SH
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6
Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: (62 21) 36 0517

Chair of the National Commission on Human Rights
Ali Said SH
Ketua Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia
Jalan Veteran No 11
Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: (C/- Ministry of Justice) (62 21) 314 1625

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 October 1995.